

OPINION 1929

***Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* Lowe & Zweifel, 1952 (Reptilia, Squamata): specific name conserved**

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Squamata; whiptail lizards; TEIIDAE; *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus*; southwestern United States.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers the specific name *perplexus* Baird & Girard, 1852, as published in the binomen *Cnemidophorus perplexus*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The name *neomexicanus* Lowe & Zweifel, 1952, as published in the binomen *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *perplexus* Baird & Girard, 1852, as published in the binomen *Cnemidophorus perplexus* and as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3049

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* Lowe & Zweifel, 1952 was received from Prof Hobart M. Smith (University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309-0334, U.S.A.) and 10 others on 30 May 1997. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 54: 167-171 (September 1997). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments in support from Dr Charles J. Cole (American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.), Dr Philip A. Medica (U.S. Geological Survey, Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.A.), Dr Harold A. Dundee (Tulane University of Natural History, Louisiana, U.S.A.), Dr Robert G. Webb (University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas, U.S.A.), Dr Wilmer W. Tanner (Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, U.S.A.), Prof David B. Wake (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.) and Prof Beth E. Leuck (Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport, Louisiana, U.S.A.) were published in BZN 55: 39-43 (March 1998).

A note of the support received from Prof Robert C. Stebbins (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.), Prof James L. Christiansen (Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A.), Prof Roger Conant (The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S.A.) and Dr Joseph T. Collins (The Center for North American Amphibians and Reptiles, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.) was also published in BZN 55: 43.

It was noted on the voting paper that, although the specific name of *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* relates to a taxon which some authors now consider originated through hybridisation (para. 5 of the application and the comment from Dr C.J. Cole on BZN 55: 40), it is nevertheless available (Article 17 of the Code).

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1998 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 54: 169. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1998 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 20: Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Dupuis, Eschmeyer, Kabata, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Štys .

Negative votes — none.

No votes were received from Lehtinen, Kerzhner, Kräus and Song.

Heppell and Ride were on leave of absence.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

neomexicanus, *Cnemidophorus*, Lowe & Zweifel, 1952, *Bulletin of the Chicago Academy of Sciences*, 9(13): 230.

perplexus, *Cnemidophorus*, Baird & Girard, 1852, *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, 6(4): 128.